

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1 as follows:

This application is related to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,057 [~~59182-P001US-10020638~~], filed October 31, 2000, entitled "System And Method For IP Router With an Optical Core," to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,056 [~~59182-P002US-10020639~~], filed October 31, 2000, entitled "System and Method for Router Central Arbitration," to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,038 [~~59182-P004US-10020641~~], filed October 31, 2000, entitled "System and Method for Router Data Aggregation and Delivery," to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/702,958 [~~59182-P006US-10020643~~], filed October 31, 2000, entitled "Timing and Synchronization for an IP Router Using an Optical Switch," to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,027 [~~59182-P012US-10021641~~], filed October 31, 2000, entitled "Router Network Protection Using Multiple Facility Interfaces" and to concurrently filed, co-pending, and commonly assigned U.S. Application Serial Number 09/703,043 [~~59182-P013US-10021642~~], filed October 31, 2000, entitled "Router Line Card Protection Using One-for-N Redundancy," the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please delete in its entirety the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1.

After the last paragraph of page 11, please insert page 9 line 9 through page 10 line 6 of co-pending and commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/703,038, previously incorporated herein by reference, amended as follows:

*A2*

Referring to FIGURE 6, Each each individual packet within chunk 10 60 has its own header, for example, fields 103-1 and 103-2 603-1 and 603-2, which includes information specific to that packet. Packet header information specifies whether a packet segment contained in the chunk is a packet start or a packet end, if that packet segment is the entire packet including both start and end, or whether the packet segment is the middle of the packet. This information is used for reassembling multi-chunk packets as well as for

specifying whether a packet is contained completely within the chunk. Additionally, contained in a packet header is a byte count specifying the number of bytes contained in the packet segment associated with this particular packet header. Also included is a bit, which if active, indicates that the packet should never be discarded. This bit is frequently set for a guaranteed bandwidth packet in chunks marked as guaranteed bandwidth chunks. Best effort 1, 2 and 3 classes should be designated only if the chunk has been indicated as a best effort chunk. There is a Point-to-Point Protocol (PPP) header format specifying how the destination facility module should treat the packet in terms of what PPP format should be appended to the chunk as it is being sent out. Packet header ~~103-1, 103-2~~ 603-1, 603-2 also contains a bit indicating whether the packet should be sent out through the output of the router or whether it should be looped back into the destination packet forwarding engine to be used by that packet forwarding engine. Packet header ~~103-1, 103-2~~ 603-1, 603-2 also includes a destination tributary indicator specifying to which tributary at a destination port the packet should be sent.

Fields ~~104-1 and 104-2~~ 604-1 and 604-2 within the chunk format are the actual payloads of the packets associated with respective packet headers ~~103-1 and 103-2~~ 603-1 and 603-2. Packet header/payload pairs, for example ~~103-1 and 104-1~~ 603-1 and 604-1, can be contained within the chunk payload up to a limit on the order of nine of these pairs, due to the 400 byte total payload size of a chunk versus a minimum packet size of 40 bytes. A chunk filler ~~105~~ 605 is the next field. If there are not sufficient data in packets to fill the chunk payload, then the unused payload capacity is filled with non-traffic bytes.